

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A method for the organization of participants within a networking event, comprising:

storing a list of participant identifiers for a group of participants in an electronic database;

associating a participant classifier with each participant identifier on the list of participant identifiers;

electronically arranging the participants according to the participant classifiers into subgroupings, each subgrouping having non-conflicting participant data classifiers among the participants within the subgrouping.

2. The method for the organization of a participants within networking event according to Claim 1, further comprising:

arranging the participants into serial, non-repeating, rounds of subgroupings.

3. The method for the organization of a participants within networking event according to Claim 2, further comprising:

automatically reconfiguring the number of subgroupings or rounds, or both, within the networking event, according to selection criteria imposed by the sponsor.

4. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 1, further comprising:

each participant having a primary classifier and a secondary classifier.

5. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 1, further comprising:

arranging nonconflicting participant data classifiers of a subgrouping according to at least one of:

- a) grouping classifiers of compatible generic interests, and
- b) avoiding duplication of classifiers of similar specific interests.

6. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 5, wherein:

the generic interests are business types.

7. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 5, wherein:

the specific interests are business types.

8. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 5, wherein:

wherein the generic interests are geographic location.

9. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 5, wherein:

the specific interests are geographic location.

10. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 1, including the further step of:

developing a data collection form for gathering the participant data.

11. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to claim 1, further comprising

managing participant data for informational purposes including one of name tags, subgroup schedules, and participant lists.

12. A method for the organization of participants within a networking event, comprising:

a) receiving a time and location for a networking event from a sponsor;

b) providing a registration form to capture participant data comprising a participant identifier and a primary classifier for each participant;

c) entering the participant data into an event coordinator application including a participant data manager for entering, managing and storing participant identifiers and participant classifiers in a database, and a participant grouping function; and

d) electronically developing, with the participant grouping function, subgrouping assignments of participants having non-conflicting participant data classifiers among the participants within each subgroup.

13. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 12, wherein:

each of steps of Claim 12 a)-d) are performed electronically.

14. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 12, wherein:

each of steps Claim 12 a)-d) are performed through a data coordinator entity web site.

15. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event, according to Claim 12, wherein:

the participant grouping function is described in pseudocode as:

- a) place the participants in a random order;
- b) go through each participant in the random order and find a list of subgroups where there are no conflicts among primary business

category (P), secondary business category (S), nor where there is anyone two persons that have met before (L);

c) if condition (PSL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (PL);

d) if condition (PL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (SL);

e) if condition (SL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (PS);

f) if condition (PS) cannot be met, select a list of subgroups with open places remaining;

g) a subgroup is randomly selected from the list of subgroups found in steps c)-f);

h) repeat algorithm from step c) until all participants are placed at a subgroup;

i) repeat algorithm from step b) for each round in the network event.

16. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 12, further comprising:

managing participant data for informational purposes including one of name tags, subgroup schedules, and participant lists.

17. A method for the organization of participants within a networking event, comprising:

- a) receiving a time and location for a networking event from a sponsor;
- b) providing a registration form to capture participant data comprising a participant identifier and a primary classifier and a secondary classifier for each participant;
- c) entering the participant data into an event coordinator application including a participant data manager for entering, managing and storing participant identifiers and participant classifiers in a database, and a participant grouping function; and
- d) electronically developing with the participant grouping function subgrouping assignments of participants having non-conflicting participant data classifiers among the participants within each subgroup; and
- e) outputting the subgrouping assignments.

18. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 17, wherein:

each of steps of Claim 17 a)-d) are performed electronically.

19. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 18, wherein:

each of steps Claim 17 a)-d) are performed through a data coordinator entity web site.

20. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event, according to Claim 19, wherein:

the participant grouping function is described in pseudocode as:

- a) place the participants in a random order;
- b) go through each participant in the random order and find a list of subgroups where there are no conflicts among primary business category (P), secondary business category (S), nor where there is anyone two persons that have met before (L);
- c) if condition (PSL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (PL);
- d) if condition (PL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (SL);
- e) if condition (SL) cannot be met, attempt to find a subgroup list with no conflicts in (PS);
- f) if condition (PS) cannot be met, select a list of subgroups with open places remaining;
- g) a subgroup is randomly selected from the list of subgroups found in steps c)-f);
- h) repeat algorithm from step c) until all participants are placed at a subgroup;

i) repeat algorithm from step b) for each round in the network event.

21. The method for the organization of participants within a networking event according to Claim 20, further comprising:

organizing participant data for informational purposes including outputting at least one of name tags, subgroup schedules, and participant lists.